

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
Region 2, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

TO : Assistant Regional Director - AWE

DATE: 17 JUN 1988

FROM : Acting Assistant Regional Director - ARW

CPG #17 Endangered

SUBJECT: Dissolution of the Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope Recovery Team

Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) Manager Dave Stanbrough and my staff have reviewed Mr. Richard Remington's May 6, 1988, letter (attached) and have formulated the following comments for your consideration in any response provided by you to Mr. Remington.

Although we believe that the recovery team has served its function well since its establishment, the formalized team concept is no longer considered crucial to management and ultimate recovery of the subspecies. Therefore, we support its dissolution. However, we do not agree with the recommendation proffered by Mr. Remington that the team be replaced with a management committee. As the lead office in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Sonoran pronghorn recovery effort, and as the management entity responsible for the preponderance of the pronghorn population and habitat in the United States, the Cabeza Prieta Refuge coordinates relevant management and research efforts with all agencies interested in the pronghorn and its recovery. The Refuge will continue this coordination. Consequently, a management committee as a formal group is unnecessary to a coordinated and cooperative recovery program. Furthermore, because any management actions taken for the benefit of the pronghorn would perforce be implemented on Refuge lands, management responsibility ultimately lies with the Service, not a committee.

In summary, we recommend that Mr. Remington's resignation be accepted with thanks for his contribution to the team and the recovery effort, and that the recovery team be disbanded.

Attachment

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AWE